Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 6414

PARIS FOR US PERM DEL TO UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG UNESCO YO IS OCON PFOR SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S INCLUSION IN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION

REF: A. STATE 237919 (NOTAL) B. STATE 224244

- 1. CHARGE CALLED ON FSFA IO DIR JAZIC SEPT 28 TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS AS INSTRUCTED IN REF A CONCERNING EUROPEAN REGION MEMBERSHIP FOR ISRAEL AT NAIROBI GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC).
- 2. CHARGE RECALLED THAT AT 18TH GC YUGOSLAVS HAD VOTED AGAINST ASSIGNMENT OF ISREAEL TO EUROPEAN REGION. HE THEN NOTED YUGOSLAVIA SEEMED TO ALTER ITS POSITION BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF UNESCO EXEC BOARD RECOMMENDATION THAT 19TH GC, IN UPDATING REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, BE GUIDED BY VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF REGION CONCERNED. JAZIC INTERJECTED THAT WHILE AT 18TH GC SPECIFIC QUESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS ASSINGMENT OF ISRAEL TO EUROPEAN REGION, EXEC BOARD RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED ONLY GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF BASIS UPON WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBER STATES ARE ASSIGNED TO GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS. EXEC

BOARD RECOMMENDATION "SAYS NOTHING ABOUT ISRAEL. WE VOTED FOR THE PRINCIPLE".

3. CHARGE DREW UPON ARGUMENTATION IN REFTEL A, PARA 6, (OMITTING PT. A) TOUCHING ON PT. B AND EMPHASIZING PT. C
TO UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE OF GOY DEL'S SUPPORTING GC
ACCEPTANCE OF EXEC BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON REGIONAL
ASSIGNMENT QUESTION AND ALSO SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S REQUEST
FOR ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION. CHARGE POINTED OUT
THAT IN VIEW OF YUGOSLAV PROPENSITY TO COUNSEL US ON
IMPORTANCE OF SECURING REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR POSITIONS
USG TAKES ON SOME MULTILATERAL ISSUES (E.G., GETTING
LATIN AMERICAN STATES' SUPPORT ON PUERTO RICO), YUGOSLAVS
WOULD OF COURSE NOTE THAT "EUROPEAN REGION MEMBERSHIP FOR
ISRAEL" CLEARLY ENJOYS MAJORITY SUPPORT AMONG EUROPEAN
STATES. JAZIC TOOK THE POINT.

4. JAZIC, IN HIS RESPONSE, REITERATED THAT EXEC BOARD RECOMMENDATION CONCERNS A PRINCIPLE ONLY; AND THAT WHILE HE DID NOT KNOW HOW REGIONAL ASSIGNMENT ISSUE WOULD BE DEALT WITH AT NAIROBI, HE "SUPPOSE(D)" EXEC BOARD RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE ADOPTED BY GC IF IT (PRESUMABLY A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATION) WERE "FRAMED GENERALLY". HE THEN STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON MANNER IN WHICH US MIGHT SEEK SUPPORT OF UNESCO MEMBER STATES FOR US POSITION ON REGIONAL ASSIGNMENT ISSUE. PARTICULARLY AS LATTER RELATES TO ISRAEL. HE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING A "THREAT" OR THE APPEARANCE OF A THREAT (PRESUMABLY TO WITHHOLD FUNDS), AT ONE POINT ADDING, "AT LEAST UNTIL" IT BECOMES CLEAR WHETHER EXEC BOARD RECOMMENDATION (AND, BY INFERENCE, ASSIGNMENT OF ISRRAEL TO EUROPEAN REGION) WILL BE "IMPLEMENTED". HE STATED HE DID NOT THINK "EXPULSION" OF ISRAEL "WILL HAPPEN THIS TIME", BUT ADDED THAT "THE PRINCIPLE IS THE STRONG POINT", NOT A "THREAT OF NON-PAYMENT". JAZIC SAID HE BELIEVED THERE "MUST BE A DIPLOMATIC WAY" OF RESOLVING (ISRAEL EUROPEAN REGION ASSIGNMENT ISSUE, "MAYBE THE ARABS COULD ABSTAIN, GO TO A CAFE DURING THE VOTE, OR SOMETHING" HE WONDERED OUT LOUD.

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5. ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT THERE ARE OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WHICH MAY SURFACE AT NAIROBI, SUCH AS ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION ENDORSED AT PARIS UNESCO MEETING EARLY THIS YEAR. JAZIC ARGUED AT SOME LENGTH THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. YUGOSLAVIA'S "COMPROMISE EFFORTS" AT PARIS UNESCO MEETING HAVE BEEN "WRONGLY CRITICIZED." HE STATED ARABS HAD REQUESTED THAT ENTIRE TEXT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ZIONSIM/RACISM RESOLUTION BE QUOTED IN UNESCO ENDORSEMENT THEREOF, AT WHICH POINT YUGOSLAVS "SOLELY IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE" HAD PROPOSED THAT GA RESOLUTION MERELY BE REFERENCED. ARABS HAD THEN AGREED. HE MADE AN EXTREMELY STRAINED EFFORT TO CONVINCE CHARGE THAT "MERE REFERENCE TO (GA) RESOLUTION" DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY ITS ENDORSEMENT. REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION BEING ADDRESSED BY 19TH GC, JAZIC SAID HE BELIEVED UNESCO DIR GEN HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN "POSTPONING" INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A RESOLUTION. HE UNDERLINED GOY DESIRE THAT NAIROBI GC BE "PRODUCTIVE, AND (THAT) POLEMICS, IF THEY CANNOT BE AVOIDED ENTIRELY, AT LEAST BE CONTROLLED."

6. JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS. JAZIC VOLUNTEERED THAT ISRAELI "EXCAVATION QUESTION" WOULD BE "DIFFICULT TO AVOID" AT NAIROBI GC AND OPINED THAT SUBJECT IS A LEGITIMATE UNESCO CONCERN. HE STATED THAT UNESCO DIR GEN HAD MENTIONED TO YUGOSLAV UNESCO REP IN PARIS RECENTLY THAT ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN "VERY UNCOOPERATIVE ON THIS MATTER".

7. COMMENT: THOUGH CHARGE MERELY MENTIONED IN PASSING THE VIRTUAL CERTAINTY OF CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL WITHHOLDING OF US FUNDS FROM UNESCO IF ISRAEL WERE AGAIN EXCLUDED FROM EUROPEAN REGION, JAZIC WAS CLEARLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A "THREAT". THIS SEEMS TO US BUT ANOTHER INDICATION THAT US'S DEEP CONCERN AND WILLINGNESS TO EXERT ITSELF ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES IS BEING BROUGHT HOME TO THE YUGOSLAVS. SWEITZER

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